(b) if no, what is this amount; and

(c) the details of the increase in production of crude oil during the investment of this amount in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) during the last seven years has spent an amount of Rs. 38000.72 Crore on various schemes, Capital acquisition and Development Drilling towards oil and gas production activities.

(c) Actual Crude Oil Production by ONGC during the last seven years is as under:

Year	Crude Oil Production (MMT)
2001-02	24.708
2002-03	26.005
2003-04	26.057
2004-05	26.484
2005-06	24.404
2006-07	26.051
2007-08	25.945

Most of crude oil production of ONGC is coming from ageing fields. However, during the year 2005-06 crude oil production was less mainly due to unforeseen fire accident at Mumbai High North (MHN) platform and less than envisaged gain from ongoing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/ Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes in onshore Assets. During 2007-08 production is marginally less due to stoppage of air injection in Balol and Santhal fields due to air blow out in Balol as well as natural decline from ageing fields.

Trend of oil price

785. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the prices of oil going up internationally at a time when the increase in their consumption is lower than the increase in production and the market is full of oil;

(b) whether this trend is completely artificial and imposed;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the steps Government to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Prices in the international oil market are influenced by a number of factors including supply, demand, geopolitical conditions, policies and strategies of oil producing and oil consuming countries, market speculation, investment by hedge funds etc.

International prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained volatile in the recent past. The Indian Basket of crude oil, which averaged $79.25/bbl during 2007-08, had gone up to an unprecedented level of $142.04/bbl on 3rd July, 2008 before declining sharply due to fall in demand on account of economic recession in the major oil consuming countries of the world. The Indian Basket of crude oil which averaged $129.72/bbl/ in June, 2008 has come down to $ 44.41/bbl in February, 2009 (up to 16th Feb' 09). The trend of Indian Basket of crude oil is given as under:

Month	$/bbl	Month	$/bbl
April' 08	105.77	October' 08	69.12
May' 08	120.91	Novermber' 08	50.91
June' 08	129.72	December' 08	40.61
July' 08	132.47	January' 09	43.99
August' 08	113.05	February' 09	44.41
September' 08	96.81	Average 2008-09 (up to 16th Feb' 09)	89.06

India imports around 80% of its crude oil requirements and hence, the trend of oil prices in the international market has a decisive influence on the costs/ prices of petroleum products in the domestic market.

In view of recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has reduced the Retail Selling Prices of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country:

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

Commitments of ONGC abroad

786. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nigeria has urged Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) to honour promises to fulfil its 6 billion dollor commitment of investment in infrastructure of the African nation as part of the deal by which it was awarded an oil block in November, 2006;

(b) is so, whether ONGC has agreed to implement the promise made to Nigeria in this regard;